Damage to the Art Objects in Festivals of India in France and US

44. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some very costly art objects have either been damaged or lost during the festivals of India held in France and USA; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) One thousand and twenty one art objects were sent to USA and France and 28 of these suffered some damage. Out of these, one item had one part, the "munal" or mouth piece of a Hookah missing even before despatch to the Festival of India abroad. The details of the 28 art objects are annexed.

[*see* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 1].

Infant mortality rate

45. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the infant mortality rate in urban and rural areas;

(b) what steps have been taken to control infant mortality;

(c) whether there has been any decrease therein; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) According to latest available estimates of Sample Registration Scheme of Registrar General of India the Infant Mortality Rate in India was 62 per 1000 live births in urban areas and 105 per 1000 live births in rural areas and 96 per 1000 live births in the country as a whole in 1986.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce infant mortality include a massive programme for training of traditional birth attendants, improvement of health infrastructure training of health manpower, intensification of MCH Programme and health education, universal immunisation of children, propagation of oral rehydration therapy to combat diarrhoeal diseases, promotion of breast feeding and proper weaning practices, scheme for prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia and supplementary nutrition under the ICDS.

(c) and (d) Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 129 in 1976 to 96 in 1986.

Sending of youth delegation to China

46. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send any youth delegation to China in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.